

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks

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ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT CHECKLIST

Fur Farm, Game Bird Farm, Zoo/Menagerie, Shooting Preserve

PART 1. PROPOSED ACTION DESCRIPTION

Project Title: Leathers Game Bird Farm and Shooting Preserve

Application Date: Game Farm 6/14/02 Shooting Preserve 7/2/02

Name, Address and Phone Number: Lewis Leathers, Box 151, Broadview MT 59115

Project Location: T4N R23E S7 (total 320 acres for preserve)

Description of Project:

The applicant proposes to operate a game bird farm and private shooting preserve. The owner plans to raise pheasants for sale and to release the captive reared birds onto his shooting preserve. The shooting preserve will be 320 acres and will be operated as a private shooting preserve for members only. The applicant intends to release a minimum of 200 ring-neck pheasants per year for harvest by the members on the shooting preserve.

Other groups or agencies contacted or which may have overlapping jurisdiction:

None

PART 2. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Table 1. Potential impact on physical environment.

Will the proposed action result in potential impacts to:	Unknown	Potentially Significant	Minor	None	Can Be Mitigated	Comments Below Or On Attached Pages
1. Unique, endangered, fragile, or limited environmental resources				X		
2. Terrestrial or aquatic life and/or habitats				X		
3. Introduction of new species into an area				X		
4. Vegetation cover, quantity & quality				X		
5. Water quality, quantity & distribution (surface or groundwater)				X		
6. Existing water right or reservation				X		
7. Geology & soil quality, stability & moisture				X		
8. Air quality or objectionable odors				X		
9. Historical & archaeological sites				X		
10. Demands on environmental resources of land, water, air & energy				X		
11. Aesthetics				X		

Comments

(A description of potentially significant, or unknown, impacts and potential alternatives for mitigation must be provided.)

Table 2. Potential impacts on human environment.

Will the proposed action result in potential impacts to:	Unknown	Potentially Significant	Minor	None	Can Be Mitigated	Comments Below Or On Attached Pages
1. Social structures and cultural diversity				X		
2. Changes in existing public benefits provided by wildlife populations and/or habitat				X		
3. Local and state tax base and tax revenue			X			
4. Agricultural production				X		
5. Human health				X		
6. Quantity & distribution of community & personal income				X		
7. Access to & quality of recreational activities				X		
8. Locally adopted environmental plans & goals (ordinances)				X		
9. Distribution & density of population and housing				X		
10. Demands for government services			X			
11. Industrial and/or commercial activity				X		

Comments

(A description of potentially significant, or unknown, impacts and potential alternatives for mitigation must be provided as comments.)

3) With a new source of revenue, the tax base could increase. Facilities will need to be inspected on a yearly basis, which will require additional government services.

Does the proposed action involve potential risks or adverse effects which are uncertain but extremely harmful if they were to occur?

No

Does the proposed action have impacts that are individually minor, but cumulatively significant or potentially significant?

Unknown

Description and analysis of reasonable alternatives (including the no action alternative) to the proposed action when alternatives are reasonably available and prudent to consider. Include a discussion of how the alternatives would be implemented:

1. No Action Alternative: Under the no-action alternative, the facility would not be licensed.
2. Preferred Alternative: The preferred alternative is to license this facility and allow the game bird farm and shooting preserve to operate under current regulations.

List proposed mitigative measures for license:

Licensee will be required to post boundaries of the shooting preserve as specified in Montana Codes Annotated 87-4-502.

7.5 US Geological Map is required from the applicant.

Lease agreement from landlord. Is required from the applicant

Individuals or groups contributing to, or commenting on, this EA: None

EA prepared by: Tom Watkins

Date Completed: July 11, 2002

PART 3. DECISION

Recommendation and justification concerning preparation of EIS:

Describe public involvement, if any: Letters were sent to the following neighboring property owners: Mike Schmechel, Joe Heiken, Steve Conover, and Dan Barta. The environmental assessment will be placed on the FWP web site at fwp@state.mt.us under "public notices." Any comments may be forwarded to Warden Tom Watkins at twatkins@state.mt.us or mailed to Warden Watkins at 1301 W. Mayryland, Laurel, Mt. 59044. The EA will be available for comment until August 19, 2002.

Recommendation for license approval:

Wildlife Manager _____ Date _____

Warden Captain _____ Date _____